

Appl. No. 10/612,254
Amdt. Dated May 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Figs. 2 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 2 and 3. Fig. 2 has been changed to include a centerline which is identified by reference letter "C."

Attachment: Replacement Sheet.

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• • R E M A R K S / A R G U M E N T S • •

The Office Action of February 28, 2006 has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following remarks, are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

By the present amendment, the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 10 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 9 respectively and claims 2 and 10 have been appropriately canceled.

Entry of the changes to the claims is respectfully requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a). Under this objection the Examiner requested that the "central axis" of the support arm be shown in the drawings.

In response to the objection to the drawings and the Examiner's request, applicant is submitting a Replacement Sheet of drawings that includes Figs. 2 and 3 with the central axis of the support arm identified by the letter "C" in Fig. 2.

The Examiner is requested to approve the amendment to the drawings so that applicant can proceed to have formal drawings prepared for this application.

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On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 9. Under this objection the Examiner states that "a cooperating tubular assembly is confusing given it comprises coplanar plates."

It is believed that the added recitation of upper and lower tubular members in each of claims 1 and 9 addresses and overcomes the Examiner's objection to claims 1 and 9.

On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner has objected to claims 2-7 and 10-17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-7 and 10-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 11 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1, 8, 9 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,264,260 to Krakow.

On page 6 of the Office Action the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-7 and 10-17 are allowed.

Inasmuch as the limitations of claims 2 and 10 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 9 respectively (effectively presenting the limitations of claims 2 and 10 in independent form), and the Examiner has not rejected claims 2 or 10 and has indicated that claims 2 and 10 contain allowable subject matter (and are allowable), it is submitted that, as amended, claims 1 and 9 and claims 3-8 and 11-20 which depend there from are all allowable.

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Inasmuch as claims 2 and 10 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph or rejected over Krakow, no comments concerning these outstanding rejections are deemed necessary in this reply.

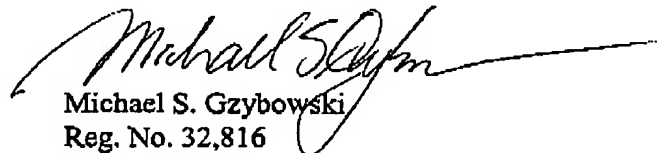
Entry of the present amendment and an early allowance of the application are earnestly requested.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested.

If upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 12-2136 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,


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